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COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
COUR DE JUSTICE DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES
CÚIRT BHREITHIÚNAIS NA gCÓMHPHOBAL EORPACH
CORTE DI GIUSTIZIA DELLE COMUNITÀ EUROPEE
EIROPAS KOPIENU TIESA



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EUROPEISKA GEMENSKAPERNAS DOMSTOL

Press and Information

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS No 24/09

24 March 2009

SYMPOSIUM OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES' CONSTITUTIONAL AND SUPREME COURTS

'Reflections on the preliminary ruling procedure'

On 30 and 31 March 2009, the Court of Justice of the European Communities is organising a symposium of the Presidents of the Constitutional and Supreme Courts of the Member States of the European Union with the objective of deepening the dialogue with the highest national courts on measures to be considered to improve the efficiency of the preliminary ruling procedure. The symposium is being held in the context of the process of consideration of the preliminary ruling procedure set in motion by the Association of Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union, in cooperation with the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Courts of the European Union.

The cooperation between the courts of the Member States of the European Union and the Court of Justice of the European Communities has proved to be one of the sturdiest pillars of the Community legal order. Thanks to the preliminary ruling system, laid down from the outset by the Treaties, national courts are able to make a reference to the Court of Justice to obtain a ruling on the interpretation or validity of a provision of Community law which it needs in order to decide the case before it. By thus ensuring judicial protection of the rights which individuals derive from Community law and by enabling the Court to fulfil its task of ensuring compliance with the law in the application and interpretation of the Treaties, that system is the keystone of the Community court system.

The symposium will take place in the Grand Courtroom of the original *Palais* of the Court of Justice.

On the occasion of that symposium, on 30 March 2009 at 18:00, there will be a private preview of a photographic exhibition devoted to the buildings which house the Supreme and Constitutional Courts of the Member States of the European Union in the lobby of the original *Palais*. That exhibition, organised with the support of the highest national courts, displays the richness and diversity of their architecture.

Accreditation may be obtained from the Press and Information Service of the Court of Justice by returning the accompanying form no later than 12:00CET on 27 March 2009.

Languages available: All

This information for the press is also available on the Court's internet site
<http://curia.europa.eu/en/actu/communiqués/index.htm>

For further information please contact Christopher Fretwell
Tel: (00352) 4303 3355 Fax: (00352) 4303 2731

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

A press room fitted with office equipment (telephone and Wi-Fi) will be available to you.

Please note:

- **the press is requested to use the Erasmus entrance, Rue Fort Niedergrünewald,**
- **the public is requested to remain silent and seated until the end of the symposium;**
- **the use of mobile telephones or other electronic devices is forbidden during the entire symposium,**
- **the use of flashes or other supplementary lighting systems is not authorised,**
- **photographers and cameramen may not move around the courtroom in order to take photographs,**
- **if a great number of photographers and cameramen are interested, a ‘pool’ can be arranged by the Press and Information Service.**

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation to be sent by email before 12:00 CET on
27 March 2009 to the following address: christine.verneau@curia.europa.eu

Re: *Symposium of the Presidents of the Member States' Constitutional and Supreme Courts*

For further information, please contact the Secretariat of the Press and Information Service
Tel: (00352) 4303 2035

Name:
Organisation:
Branch of the media :
Number of persons :
Contact numbers: Tel : Fax : e-mail :
Request for authorisation to photograph/film (please delete as appropriate): YES/ NO
<input type="checkbox"/> Will attend the symposium on 30 and 31 March 2009 <input type="checkbox"/> Will not attend the symposium on 30 and 31 March 2009 ----- <input type="checkbox"/> Will attend the private preview of the photographic exhibition on 30 March 2009 <input type="checkbox"/> Will not attend the private preview of the photographic exhibition on 30 March 2009 ----- <input type="checkbox"/> Will take part in the tour of the new Palais of the Court on 30 or 31 March 2009 <input type="checkbox"/> Will not take part in the tour of the new Palais of the Court on 30 or 31 March 2009

**Your request has been accepted if you have not received a refusal from the Court of Justice
two days before the symposium.**